



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women**

**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

**Initial, second, third, fourth and fifth periodic reports of
States parties**

Addendum

Congo*

* The present report is being issued without formal editing.

This addendum contains some information concerning the national situation relating to the various elections which have been held in our country and which have marked the end of the transition period.

Chapter I Presentation of the Congo

Section II Legal, political and administrative system

II The political system

The section should now read:

“Upon attaining sovereignty, the Congo took its destiny into its own hands. Several experiments were undertaken, to wit, the single-party and the multi-party system. Following the war of 5 June 1997, a Basic Law was adopted on 24 October 1997. It organized the public authorities and the State during the transition period. The Executive was composed of the President of the Republic, Head of State, Head of Government and of the Government. The adoption by referendum of the Constitution of 20 January 2002 has endowed the Congo with democratically elected organs. The Executive is composed of the President of the Republic, Head of State, Head of Government. The Legislature is bicameral, with a National Assembly and Senate. Judicial power is entrusted to the national courts. The multi-party system is the rule, and freedom of the press is guaranteed.”

Section III Legal machinery for the protection of human rights

[The two sentences starting with the words]: “In its Section II, it enshrines” [and ending with the words] “trade-union freedoms.” should be replaced by: “The new legislation: the Constitution of 20 January 2002 reaffirms the sacred character of the human person. Indeed, its article 7 stipulates: The human person is sacred and has the right to life. The State has the strict obligation to respect and to protect that right. Each individual has the right to full personal development while respecting the rights of others, public order, morals and good conduct”.

Chapter II

Legal, political and administrative measures adopted within the framework of the implementation of the Convention and their conformity with national legislation

II

Creation of the Ministry responsible for the advancement of women

Paragraph 2: The following should be inserted at the end of the paragraph.

“Since 18 August 2002, as part of the new government team put in place after the inauguration of the elected President of the Republic, there has been a Secretariat of State within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rearing, Fisheries and the Advancement of Women which is responsible for the advancement of women and the integration of women in development.”

Chapter III

Constitutional and legal framework for the protection of the rights of women (articles 1 to 3)

Section I

Upholding the principle of equality between men and women and general prohibition of discrimination

I

Traditional recognition

[The paragraphs starting with the words]: “Today, the Basic Act of 24 October 1997” [and ending with the words: “the same wage as men”] should be replaced by: “The Basic Act of 24 October 1997, by which the public authorities were governed during the period of transition, upheld this constitutional tradition. The current Constitution, like the preceding basic acts, clearly recognizes equality between men and women in all areas of life. Indeed, article 8 of the Constitution of 20 January 2002 stipulates: ‘All citizens shall be equal before the law. Any discrimination based on origin, social or material circumstances, racial, ethnic or departmental affiliation, gender, education, language, religion, philosophy or place of residence is prohibited. Women have the same rights as men. The law guarantees and ensures their advancement and their representation in all political, elective and administrative functions.’”

Chapter VII

Participation of women in political and public life (article 7)

Section II

Representation of Congolese women

On page 52, insert the following after table 24:

D. Current representation of Congolese women as a result of the various elections

Political life in our country clearly illustrates the disparities between men and women. Women are still discriminated against in political structures. Because they have long been outside the realm of politics, women who have experience in public life are few in number.

Nevertheless, the campaigns to raise awareness among women conducted for years by such women's organizations as the Democratic Union of Congo Women (UDFC), the Revolutionary Union of Congo Women (URFC), and later by the Department for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for the Promotion of Women in Politics (established in 2001 to support women in the electoral process) and advocacy among male politicians during the periods before elections fostered an increase in the number of women candidates for the various elections.

One thousand, two hundred and five (1,205) women ran in the most recent legislative, senatorial and local elections, compared to seven thousand, six hundred and ninety-two (7,692) men. Eighty-nine (89) women were elected.

The following tables display the statistics on women candidates in the legislative, senatorial and local elections.

Table 1
Candidates in the legislative elections by gender

<i>Candidates</i>	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Candidates running	1 123	91.67	102	8.33	1 125	100
Candidates elected	117	90.70	12	9.30	129	100

No. = number.

% = percentage of candidates elected/percentage of candidates running.

Table 2
Candidates in the senatorial elections by gender

<i>Candidates</i>	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Candidates running	221	91.6	17	8.33	238	100
Candidates elected	51	85	9	15	60	100

Table 3
Candidates in the local elections by gender

<i>Candidates</i>	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Candidates running	6 338	85.37	1 086	14.63	7 424	100
Candidates elected	727	91.45	68	8.55	795	100

Examination of this data reveals that there has been a clear increase in women's representation in the National Assembly, the Senate and local councils compared to the results in 1992. The percentage of women in the Assembly has risen from 1.6 per cent in 1992 to 9.30 per cent in 2002. The representation of women in the Senate has grown from 3.33 per cent to 15 per cent, and, in the local councils, from 3.64 per cent to 8.55 per cent. It should also be noted that these results are incomplete because certain districts in the Pool region have not yet held their elections.

Within the Government

The Government team installed in October 1997 had 35 members, three of whom were women. After the ministerial reorganization in 1998, there were only two women out of the 25 members of the Government. The current Government has five women out of its 35 members. They head the following departments:

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Rearing, Fisheries and the Advancement of Women, responsible for the advancement of women;

Ministry of Trade, Consumption and Supply;

Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, War Wounded and the Family;

Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, responsible for literacy;

Secretariat of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Rearing, Fisheries and the Advancement of Women, responsible for the advancement of women and the integration of women in development.

Compared to the composition of preceding government teams, in which there were never more than four women, it should be noted that there has been an improvement in ministerial appointments both from the standpoint of numbers and in terms of the type of posts held.

Conclusion

The process of establishing new structures, thereby marking the end of the transition period, is moving forward in the Congo, and the department responsible for the advancement of women will spare no effort in informing the secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women of any further changes.

Brazzaville, 17 October 2002
